

Ohio River. My preference is for an eastern bridge which completes the I-265 beltway. Such a route would promote job creation in southern Indiana and relieve highway congestion in the greater Louisville area. Congress, with my support, approved in 1994 \$500,000 for the project, which is now funding a study, to be completed this November, on a possible bridge location. Also, Governor Bayh, at my urging, recently committed \$1 million for an environmental impact statement (EIS). The EIS will follow the location study, and is a necessary step, under federal law, before construction can begin on the project. It will investigate the project's effect on the natural, economic and social environments of the area and provide a cost-benefit analysis of the project.

US 231 HIGHWAY

I have also led efforts to upgrade US 231 in Spencer County to a four-lane highway. Governor Bayh, at my request, recently committed \$500,000 to conduct an EIS, starting this fall, on the highway project. A four-lane highway will greatly improve the current transportation network in this region, linking I-64 in Indiana to the Natcher Bridge, Owensboro and the Kentucky parkway system in the south. It will also encourage economic development in Spencer, Dubois and Perry Counties.

FLOOD PROTECTION

Heavy rains this year highlight the need for effective flood protection, particularly along the Ohio River, to secure homes, businesses, and public infrastructure in the region. A House committee, at my request, has provided \$2.8 million to repair six Ohio River flood protection projects built by the Corps of Engineers from 1943 to 1954 and operated and maintained by the cities of Lawrenceburg, Jeffersonville-Clarksville, New Albany, Cannelton, Tell City, and Evansville. The full House will soon consider the measure.

OHIO RIVER GREENWAY

The greenway will connect the waterfronts in Jeffersonville, Clarksville, and New Albany, and provide residents and visitors with better access to this scenic riverfront corridor and its various attractions, including the Falls of the Ohio National Wildlife Conservation Area, the Louisville skyline, and the historic districts along the riverfront. Congress, at my request, has approved funding over the last few years for initial planning and design work on the project. A House committee is considering a bill to authorize construction of the greenway.

REDEVELOPMENT AT CLOSING BASES

Indiana has been hard hit by the four rounds of military base closings. Four major bases have been closed, including the Jefferson Proving Ground (JPG) in Madison; one, the Indiana Army Ammunition Plant (INAAP), has been inactivated; and another, the Naval Ordnance Station, Louisville (NOSL), which employs several hundred Indiana residents, is being privatized. These closures have had a significant impact on communities throughout the state. My efforts have focused on promoting commercial uses at these installations.

JEFFERSON PROVING GROUND

The Army formally closed JPG last year, and efforts are under way to find productive uses for the 55,000 acre property. A local businessman won an open competition to acquire the 3,400-acre cantonment area, the built-up area south of the firing line. He is now farming the open land and marketing the buildings. An additional 230 acres have been set aside for a county park. The acreage north of the firing line has significant contamination problems. The Army estimates

that over 1 million rounds of unexploded ordnance litter the firing range, significantly limiting possible reuses of the property. It appears likely that most of the property will remain wilderness, with perhaps some limited access, in time, to the Old Timbers Lodge and other specific areas, and that the Indiana Air Guard will continue to run training flights into the range.

INDIANA ARMY AMMUNITION PLANT

The Army inactivated the ammo plant in Charlestown in October 1992, but chose not to sell the installation because it wants to be able to reactivate the black powder plant at the facility in the event of a national emergency. The key now is finding productive uses for other portions of the facility. ICI, the plant contractor, has contracted with the Army to use the resources at the installation for commercial development, and has succeeded in attracting 62 businesses, employing over 600 people, to the plant. ICI is now working to locate larger tenants to the property. I have taken the lead in establishing a 2000-acre state park at the far eastern end of the installation. The new Charlestown Park, to be opened later this year, will be an outstanding addition to the state park system, along a scenic stretch of the Ohio River.

NAVAL ORDNANCE STATION, LOUISVILLE

The Base Closure and Realignment Commission voted last year to close NOSL, but gave the Navy the option of privatizing the installation rather than relocating the activities to other facilities. I opposed the decision to close, but now that the decision has been made, have been working to keep good-paying jobs in the greater Louisville area. Under the current plan, two contractors will perform Navy work on site and hire most of the current workforce by mid-August.

CONCLUSION

We have had some setbacks with the recent base closings, but are making progress on redevelopment of these properties. We are also making headway on key infrastructure projects, such as the I-265 bridge. I am committed to working with local leaders on these and other job-creation efforts.

IN MEMORY OF MR. EDWARD PREE

HON. RICHARD J. DURBIN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 1996

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the good works and mourn the passing of Mr. Edward Pree a life-long community activist in Springfield, IL. Mr. Pree shared his life of the arts, sports, and his nation with many in the Springfield community.

After completing his law school education and service in the Army during World War II, Mr. Pree returned to Springfield to practice law with his father. The demands of this successful law practice did not keep Edward from serving those who returned from their tour of duty disabled. Mr. Pree was honored for his distinguished service by the Disabled American Veterans in 1962. He continued his work with veterans as a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Edward's life-long work with the American Legion led to his being honored with the American Legion's Americanism Award in 1991. Edward was an enthusiastic and devoted patriot. This was witnessed on many oc-

casions when he would be called on to address a gathering at a Memorial Day, Veterans' Day, or July 4th event.

Mr. Pree's love of the arts will long be remembered because of the endowments and scholarships he established to advance Springfield's artistic community. In 1978, Edward began an endowment to benefit the Springfield Art Association. He also set up the Georg Art Scholarship, the Edward Pree Speech award at Pawnee High School, and the Georg Endowment for the preservation of Edwards Place, a local historic site.

Mr. Pree's work with the Springfield sports community led to his being named one of the first inductees to the Springfield Sports Hall of Fame. Edward was inducted as a "Friend of Sports" because of his generosity in team sponsorships and his tenure as president of the American National Sports Corporation and as sports director at American Legion Post 32.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their condolences to Mrs. Margaret Pree and the entire Pree Family.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 1996

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, July 23, 1996, due to a malfunction of my congressional beeper, I missed rollcall vote No. 342, an amendment to H.R. 3814, the Commerce, Justice, State and the Judiciary Appropriations Act for fiscal year 1997, offered by Representative GEORGE RADANOVICH. I intended to vote "Yea" on Mr. RADANOVICH's amendment, as I fully support increased efforts to combat the escalating use of drugs in our country.

THOMAS J. BALSHI, DDS, IS HONORED

HON. JON D. FOX

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 1996

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, for almost a quarter of a century, Thomas J. Balshi, a fellow of the American College of Prosthodontists, has impacted the health of thousands of individuals worldwide by contributions to research, education, and the clinical practice of prosthetic dentistry.

He trained others from Bosnia and Herzegovina to bring healing and restoration to that war-torn population. He has championed the benefits of prosthetic care throughout the country of India, in Uruguay and Colombia, and has spoken before the Royal Society of Medicine in London.

Dr. Balshi is a pioneer in the field of implant prosthetics. His work has renewed the health and self-confidence of his patients. Dr. Balshi commits himself clinically and personally to the careful renewal of every patient's smile, whether the patient be indigent or celebrity. Through his years of professional practice, he has earned the reputation of being a dental court of last resort. By engineering innovative solutions, he has specialized in saving diagnosed hopeless dental cases.